

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: February is designated by the President as African American History Month, a time for honoring and exploring the culture and history of Black Americans and recognizing that our society's rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS: Countless courageous African Americans have fought and continue to fight to achieve social, economic, and political equality and justice; and

WHEREAS: As we celebrate the history of Black Arkansans — brilliant African American artists, talented musicians, and successful business and industry leaders — may we also recognize the barriers they have overcome; and

WHEREAS: Today, African American jurists are on the bench overseeing the same courtrooms where their God-given rights and freedoms as American citizens were once threatened and tested; today's government is comprised of African American legislators, city and county leaders, and heads of state agencies. Last year, our country witnessed history in action, as the first Black Vice-President of the United States took office, demonstrating the importance of representation in the highest offices in the land; and

WHEREAS: Looking to the past, a governor stood in the schoolhouse door where nine brave, young souls would not settle for a second-class education; today, sixty-three years later, many are still fighting to find that equality for every child in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: We have come so far, but we must never lose sight of how far we still have to go. All Arkansans deserve the right to the best that our state has to offer; and

WHEREAS: We must not forget the men and women who worked tirelessly for freedom, civil rights, and equality for all people and whose deeds helped to broaden and enrich American culture. They have inspired the next generation to continue the fight for equality and to carry on the pursuit of a more perfect Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 2022, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all my fellow citizens to neither forget the painful past nor lose sight of the promise of the future.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State